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Contact: John R. Kemp

REGENTS APPROVE TRANSITION PLAN FOR LSU-A

BATON ROUGE -- The Board of Regents for postsecondary education today approved a transition plan to convert Louisiana State University at Alexandria from a two-year college to a four-year university.

The Board gave its approval for the development of three baccalaureate degree programs, including a bachelor of liberal studies, a bachelor of science in elementary education and a bachelor of science in biology. The Regents, however, did not approve the university's request for a baccalaureate degree in business administration at this time. Instead, the Regents suggested three other ways students could obtain a degree in business until such time as LSU-A has addressed issues associated with establishing an accredited business program of its own.

The three suggestions include permitting LSU A&M in Baton Rouge to continue offering its accredited four-year business degree at the LSU-A campus. If LSU does not want to continue the program, then another state university could offer an accredited four-year degree in business administration through the Rapides Parish Learning Center. Or, an accredited business option could be included in the approved bachelor of liberal studies degree.

"This plan represents an effective approach to broaden opportunities for the citizens of central Louisiana," said Commissioner of Higher Education E. Joseph Savoie. "It is our hope that these degrees will draw new students and ultimately assist in providing more graduates who are fully prepared to enter the workforce."

Under the transition plan, LSU-A will maintain seven associate degree programs. The seven